acceptability in the market. BALCO has successfully developed five bar chequered plate and rolled products for space applications through in house research.

PARTICIPATION OF FOREIGN COMPANIES IN MINING INDUSTRY

3424. SHRI SURESH PACHORI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decides to allow equity participation of foreign companies exceeding 50 per cent non-captive mines so as to attract big multinationals in the country's mining industry;

(b) if so, how many foreign countries have welcomed this measure;

(c) The member of foreign companies have offered to partic pate; and

(d) What are the total foreign companies whose cases were cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (d) The National Mineral Policy placed before this House on 5-3-1993 liberalising further the conditions pertaining to foreign investment in the mining sector has generated interest amongst foreign mining companies. Under the Policy, equity participation over 50 per cent by foreign parties in non-captive mines can be considered on a case to rase basis. Effect of these will show after consequential amendments to the Mines & Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, have been made.

MINING OF VALUABLE MINERAL IN CHHOTA NAGPUR KODRAMA AREAS IN BIHAR

3425. SHRI BRAHMADEO ANAND PASWAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for which Government do not initiate exploration/mining of those mineral Chhota Nagpur Kodrama area in Bihar already identified for illegal village mining activities with a view to exploring the natural wealth of the country;

(b) The reasons for which the Ministry has not established any rapport with the Ministry of Environment and Forests for finding out ways and means whereby exploration/mining work could be undertaken in these areas; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to ensure that the natural wealth in the area is explored unearthed for economic prosperity of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the Government of Bihar and will be laid on the Table of the House.

जस्ता संयंत्र को आयातित कोयले की आपूर्ति

3426. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव :** क्या खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कोयले का आयात कर उसकी जस्ता संयंत्र को आपूर्ति की गयी जबकि देश में कोयले का प्रचुर भंडार उपलब्ध है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार ने संबंधित अधिकारियों की जवाबदेही निश्चित करने तथा उनके विरुद्ध कार्यवाही करने की दशा में क्या प्रयास किए हैं ?

खान मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री बलराम सिंह यादव) : (क) और (ख) सरकार ने हिन्दुस्तान जिंक लि. द्वारा मैटालरजीकल कोक के आयात मामले की जांच करने के लिए एक जांच समिति बनाई है । समिति की रिपोर्ट की प्रतीक्षा है ।

PROCUREMENT OF SPARES AND TOOLS BY M.E.C.L.

3427. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. had